

# STATE MEET QUALIFICATION

Swimmers participating in the district meets shall be eligible for the State Championship on the following basis:

1. **Individual Events:** The top 6 finishers per event from each of the 3 District Championships automatically qualify (18). The next 6 fastest at-large times swam during the district meets will determine the remaining qualifiers for a total of 24 swimmers except as listed below: **Exceptions:** The following events will be limited to a field of 8 swimmers consisting of the top 2 finishers from each district + the next 2 fastest at-large times:
  - 11-12 500 yd freestyles
  - 13-14 1000 & 1650 yd freestyles
  - 15-21 1000 & 1650 yd freestyles
2. **Relays:** A total of 16 relay teams will advance to the State Meet. The relay fields will consist of the top 4 finishers from each district championship plus the next 4 fastest at-large times from across the three district meets. Relays for the 11-12, 13-14, and 15-21 age groups will be swam as timed finals during the Friday & Saturday Finals sessions. The 10 & under relays will take place during their designated afternoon sessions.
3. The top 6 qualifiers shall be announced at the District Meet. Coaches shall be alerted to the fact that their swimmers have qualified, and subsequent replacements notified should swimmers decide against attending.
4. Contestants are required to declare any intent to NOT compete in the State Meet no later than 30 minutes AFTER the session they compete in at Districts. This includes scratching from qualified individual events or as a possible replacement swimmer, as a relay participant, and if they will not be attending the State meet in any capacity.
5. Swimmers shall compete in the events for which they have qualified in the State Meet.
6. The compiled listing of qualifiers and alternates will be announced no later than Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

## IDENTIFICATION OF AUTOMATIC & AT-LARGE QUALIFIERS:

1. Coaches should declare **any** swimmers' intent to not compete at the State Championship (i.e., "SCRATCH"), as outlined in their respective East, Central, or West District Meet Announcements.
2. Each District host or appointee will identify the top 6 swimmers from each individual event (top 2 for exception events), along with the top 4 relay teams who have committed to swimming at the State Meet. These identified athletes and relay teams fulfill the automatic qualifier slots allocated to each District meet.
3. Final District meet files (final Meet Back-Ups + all scratch reports) shall be emailed to the State Meet Director no later than 8:00 AM on Monday, March 9, 2026. District hosts shall also provide nightly meet backups & scratch reports throughout their championships.
4. After District meets conclude, all communication regarding entries and scratches must occur via email to the State Meet Director at [ymcastates@gmail.com](mailto:ymcastates@gmail.com).
5. The State Meet Committee is responsible for merging results from the District meets to determine the "next fastest" at-large qualifiers from across the state.
6. Teams will receive a preliminary entry report by 4:00 PM the Monday following Districts. Entry reports will only be sent to Head Coaches unless a team has specified an additional entry confirmation contact via the Team Contact Form [Appendix 3].
7. Teams are responsible for submitting corrections and/or reporting any scratches not previously processed at the District meet no later than 8:00 PM, Tuesday, March 10, 2026. This includes identifying all athletes who should not remain on a team's roster as a potential relay participant or event alternate.
8. Entry corrections or previously unreported scratches affecting an automatic qualifier slot will be filled from the corresponding District until the entry review deadline (8:00 PM on 3/10/2026). In the event a District does not fill their allotment of automatic qualifiers, the additional slots will be filled from the at-large rankings.
9. Any scratches received after 8:00 PM on March 10, 2026 will be filled by the next fastest time available from the at-large group regardless of District.